(e) whether Government propose to do away the practice of Police Verification in cases where Character Verification Certificate issued by authorised official on his letterpad is enclosed; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A short validity passport is issued to an applicant on the basis of a Character Verification Certificate issued by authorised officials of State and Central Government when the applicant has submitted documentary proof of urgency for travel abroad.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) All such applications are subjected to ex-post facto Police Verification. If adverse Police report is received, a letter is written to the officer concerned asking for an explanation. The matter is also referred to the Home Department of the State concerned for taking action as deemed fit.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Police Verification is an essential step in the process of issuance of a passport.

OIC's Efforts to serve the right of Self-Determination of Kashmiris

2224. SHRI JAGMOHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 51-nation Organisation of Islamic Countries have resolved to intensify efforts to "serve the right of self-determination for the people of Kashmir";

(b) whether the OIC have set up a "contact group" comprising Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Nigeria and Morocco for this purpose;

(c) whether Government have made or propose to make it clear to the nations of the "contact group" that it consider their membership of the group and activities of the groups as unfriendly acts; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) Seventh Extraordinary Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers held at Islamabad on September 7—9 1994 had decided to set up an OIC 'Contact Group' on Jammu and Kashmir at the United Nations in New York, "to coordinate the efforts of Member States for promoting the right of self-determination of the Kashmiri people in accordance with the Resolutions and for safeguarding their fundamental human rights." The OIC 'Contact Group' on Jammu and Kashmir at the United Nations comprising of Niger, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and the OIC Secretary General was subsequently established.

(c) and (d) The Government has conveyed India's views on the OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir appropriately to its Members.

Indo-Pak clash over Kashmir at UN

2225. SHRI HIPHEI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether clash between India and Pakistan over Kashmir in United Nations has been reported in recent past;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether Government have time and again repeated that Kashmir is an integral part of India in all International Conferences;

(d) if so, reasons for allowing Pakistan to raise the issue again and again in each International Conference/Meet;

(e) whether Government propose to boycott such Conferences in future where Pakistan raises or allowed to raise "Kashmir Issue"; and

(f) if so, details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Pakistan has attacked India in several statements at the current UN General Assembly.

(c) Yes, Sir;

(d) The rules of procedure of UN bodies permit member-States to make references to any issues they wish;

(e) No, Sir.

(f) International conferences, including those at the UN, consider issues of vital importance to India, and Government's absence would mean that the Indian case, including on Kashmir, would go by default.

Statement by the U.S. Ambassador to India on Indo-Pak dispute over Kashmir

2226. SHRI HIPHEI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to a statement made by the U.S. Ambassador to India at Washington ruling out third party intercession in the Indo-Pak dispute over Kashmir;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to draw attention of Pakistan's Government towards such statements emphasising bilateral solution to 'Kashmir Issue'; and

(d) if so, details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) Government have seen media reports to the effect that the US Ambassador to India, in a reply to a question after his address on "The United States and India: Looking Ahead", at the Meridian International Centre, Washington on December 1, 1994, stated that the parties on the Indian subcontinent had been talking to each other in various ways, and that perhaps was the best way to settle the differences.

(c) and (d) Government's consistent position remains unchanged, i.e., that under the Simla Agreement all differences with Pakistan are to be resolved bilaterally and there can be no scope for any outside or third party involvement of any sort. This has been conveyed to Pakistan on several occasions and at various levels.

India and Pakistan support the move sponsored by Non-aligned Countries

2227. SHRI HIPHEI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Pakistan have supported the move sponsored by Non-aligned countries or legitimacy of nuclear weapons;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to take all possible measures to get the move ratified by the UN General Assembly; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) to (d) In the current session of the UN General Assembly, the Non-aligned countries, including India and Pakistan, tabled a draft resolution on "Request for an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice on the legality of threat or use of nuclear weapons". The resolution was adopted by the General Assembly on the 15th December.

Acquisition of Missiles from China by Pakistan

2228. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in 'The Hindustan Times' of 6th December, 1994 captioned "Pakistan admits taking missiles from China";

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating whether Government of India are aware of the reported details of the defence co-operation which is going on between Pakistan and China;

(c) whether Pakistan is also purchasing a second nuclear power plant from China in addition to the one Centre already supplied by China;

(d) if so, what is the reaction of Government of India thereto; and

(e) whether Government are contemplating to make sufficient and adequate defence preparedness in all spheres to counter Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government are aware of the extensive defence cooperation between Pakistan and China, including transfer of sophisticated missiles and technology.

(c) Government have seen reports of Pakistan President's press conference in Beijing on December 5, 1994 in which he expressed an interest in procuring a second nuclear power plant from China.

(d) and (e) Government are aware that Pakistan has a clandestine weapon-oriented nuclear programme.

Government constantly monitor all developments having a bearing on national security and take necessary measures to safeguard it.

Banking Co-operation between India and China

2229. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement for establishment of direct banking links and a memorandum of understanding of issuance of multi point entry visas were signed between India and China during the recent visit of the Vice President of India to China; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and other agreements if any singed during the visit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Two memoranda of understanding, on banking co-operation and simplification of visa procedures were signed during the Vice President's visit to China, October 21—28 1994.